

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-03 CG-00 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OIC-02

AEC-05 AGR-05 CIEP-01 CEA-01 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00

OMB-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01

NSF-01 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 /115 W

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R 211828Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5920

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - US/USSR PRIVATE MEETING

1. SUMMARY: US REP (MOORE) MET WITH USSR REP (KOVALEV) AT LATTER'S REQUEST 19 NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS LOS SCIENCE ISSUE. KOVALEV STATED THAT CONSENT REGIME FOR CONTINENTAL SHELF NOW ESSENTIAL PART OF SOVIET SCIENCE POSITION AND ASKED COOPERATION OF US IN OBTAINING THIS RESULT BY EARLY COMMON POSITION ON USSR POSITION ON SHELF AND ROUGHLY US POSITION ON WATER COLUMN. TO OBTAIN CONSENT REGIME ON SHELF SOVIETS WILLING TO RISK THIS REGIME FOR WATER COLUMN, ALTHOUGH THEY FEEL THIS NOT LIKELY OUTCOME. SOVIETS STRANGELY OPPOSED TO CONTROL OVER SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES BY ISRA, BUT COULD ACCEPT SOME LIMITED ISRA ROLE. SOVIETS READY TO ACCEPT US APPROACH IN WATER COLUMN, INCLUDING LANDLOCKED COUNTRY PROVISION OF DOCUMENT L-19. IN ADDITION US TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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FURTHER MEETINGS WITH SOVIETS ON BROAD RANGE OF LOS

ISSUES. END SUMMARY

2. AT REQUEST OF SOVIETS, US REP JOHN NORTON MOORE AND WULF AND BUSBY MET PM 19 NOVEMBER WITH FELIX KOVALEV TO DISCUSS LOS SCIENCE ISSUE. KOVALEV OPENED MEETING BY STATING THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD CONCLUDED THAT UNLESS THE US AND USSR WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE A COMMON POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, WE WOULD BOTH BE DEFEATED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, "YOU BY THEM WITH OUR HELP, AND WE WITH YOUR HELP". HE SAID THE ONLY ISSUE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN US WAS WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE A CONSENT REGIME ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, ADDING THAT HE HAD PERSUADED THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THE PROVISION OF DOCUMENT L-19 (BASICALLY OUR POSITION) SO FAR AS THEY APPLIED TO THE WATER COLUMN, INCLUDING THE PROVISION PERTAINING TO ACCESS BY LANDLOCKED NATIONS. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE PERSONALLY PRESENTED THE SHELF ISSUE TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN TERMS OF WHETHER IT WAS MORE IN THEIR INTEREST TO RETAIN CONSENT FOR THEIR OWN SHELF OR TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE SHELVES OF OTHERS. HE STATED HE WAS NOW CERTAIN THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF CONSENT REQUIREMENT, AND THAT IT WAS NOW A NECESSARY OBJECTIVE IN THE SCIENCE NEGOTIATIONS. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS WILLING TO RISK A CONSENT REGIME IN THE WATER COLUMN IN ORDER TO RETAIN CONSENT ON THE SHELF, ADDING THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT A CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR RESEARCH CONCERNING LIVING RESOURCES. HE FURTHER STATED THAT SOVIETS WERE HAVING "SECOND THOUGHTS" ABOUT THE DEFINITIONAL APPROACH THEY TABLED IN CARACAS WHICH HE EXPLAINED APPLIED TO ANY RESEARCH CONCERNING RESOURCES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY US REPS, KOVALEV STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WANTED TO RETAIN THE WORDING OF THE 1958 CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION, I.E. THAT CONSENT "SHALL NOT NORMALLY BE WITHHELD...", ADDING THAT THE SOVIETS COULD LIVE WITH THE AMBIGUITIES PRESENT IN THAT WORDING AND WOULD NOT TRY TO REFINE IT. WHEN US REPS ASKED IF SOVIET CONCERNS MIGHT BE ACCOMMODATED IN OTHER WAYS, SUCH AS THROUGH ARTICLES ON DRILLING, KOVALEV CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO EXAMINE ANY US PROPOSAL ALONG THESE LINES AND PASS IT ON, BUT HE FELT SURE SUCH EFFORTS WERE "DOOMED TO FAILURE" SINCE THE INTERESTED SOVIET AGENCIES WERE "VERY TOUGH" ON THIS ISSUE. US SIDE INDICATED WE WOULD EXPLORE SOME POSSIBILITIES AND FORWARD ANY SUGGESTIONS TO THE SOVIETS BY MID-FEBRUARY. US REP MOORE EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF US AND SOVIETS MAINTAINING A COMMON POSITION IF POSSIBLE, AND OF NOT HAVING SEPARATE

VOTES ON WATER COLUMN AND SHELF REGIMES. KOVALEV RESPONDED THAT IN HIS OPINION IF THE US AND USSR WERE UNABLE TO AGREE, THE ISSUE WOULD BE TOO BITTER FOR THIS APPROACH.

4. KOVALEV INDICATED THAT THE USSR HAD NOT CAREFULLY STUDIED THE QUESTION OF DELIMITATION OF THE SHELF, BUT STATED THAT SO LONG AS IT WAS IN EXCESS OF THE 500 METER ISOBATH, THE SOVIETS WOULD BE SATISFIED. US REP MOORE EXPLAINED IN GENERAL TERMS THE HEDBERG FORMULA AND KOVALEV STATED ANY FORMULA WHICH SATISFIED THEIR NEEDS WOULD BE

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AGREEABLE AND THAT THIS DID NOT SEEM A PROBLEM.

5. TACTICALLY, KOVALEV INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS WISHED TO PUT TOGETHER A LARGE ENOUGH GROUP TO CREATE A "BLOCK-

ING THIRD" ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND THEREBY FORCE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO NEGOTIATE. WHEN THE US INDICATED A PROBABLE LACK OF FLEXIBILITY ON THE SHELF ISSUE, KOVALEV STATED THAT THIS WAS REGRETABLE, BUT IF WE COULD NOT AGREE, THE USSR WOULD PROCEED TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE UK AND FRANCE ON THE ISSUE. HE STRESSED THAT AGREEMENT WAS MUCH PREFERABLE, SINCE WE WOULD HAVE A FORMIDABLE GROUP IF THE US, USSR, EEC AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND THE LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES JOINED FORCES.

6. IN DISCUSSING SCIENCE OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION, KOVALEV SAID SOVIET POSITION HAD

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NOT CHANGED. HE THEN STATED THAT SOVIET UNION COULD ACCEPT A ROLE FOR ISRA IN FORMULATING "NORMATIVE STANDARDS" FOR THE CONDUCT OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES, BUT THEY WOULD OPPOSE ANY CONTROL AS SUCH. HE INDICATED THAT US AND SOVIET INTERESTS ON THIS ISSUE WERE VERY CLOSE AND THAT WE SHOULD WORK CLOSELY IN COMMITTEE I TO ACCOMPLISH OUR OBJECTIVES.

7. POSSIBILITY OF A GROUP OF FIVE MEETING AT THE HEAD OF DELEGATION LEVEL WAS DISCUSSED FOR IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO NEXT ROUND OF THE EVENSEN GROUP MEETINGS IN NEW YORK, A COMMITTEE I EXPERTS MEETING OF GROUP OF FIVE; A US/USSR BILATERAL MEETING ON THE BROAD RANGE OF LOS ISSUES; AND A MEETING OF LIKE-MINDED SALMON NATIONS TO COORDINATE POSITIONS. KOVALEV INDICATED THAT HE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT ON THESE SUBJECTS, BUT WAS FAVORABLY INCLINED AND WOULD APPRECIATE FORMAL US INITIATIVES PRESENTED IN MOSCOW. HE ASKED THAT FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR MEETINGS BE SUBMITTED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHEN DATES ARE FIRMED UP.

8. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, KOVALEV STATED THAT SOVIETS HAD INFORMATION INDICATING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD PUSH FOR EARLY VOTING IN GENEVA. HE SAID THAT FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRY LEADERS IN NEW YORK, HE BELIEVED THERE WOULD ONLY BE ONE LOS SESSION IN 1975, AND THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE TAKING THIS POSITION IN ORDER TO FORCE PROGRESS, ALTHOUGH MOST OF THEM REALIZED THAT ANOTHER SESSION IN 1976 WOULD BE NECESSARY.

9. COMMENT: PURPOSE OF MEETING CALLED BY KOVALEV WAS TO INDICATE IMPORTANCE OF CONSENT REGIME ON SHELF FOR THE USSR. THIS MAY RESULT FROM CONCERN THAT L-19 WILL CATCH ON AMONG LDCS AT CONFERENCE. STRENGTH OF STATEMENT OF USSR POSITION SUGGESTS UNDERLYING REASON CONCERNING MILITARY ISSUES OR THE ARCTIC.

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## Message Attributes

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